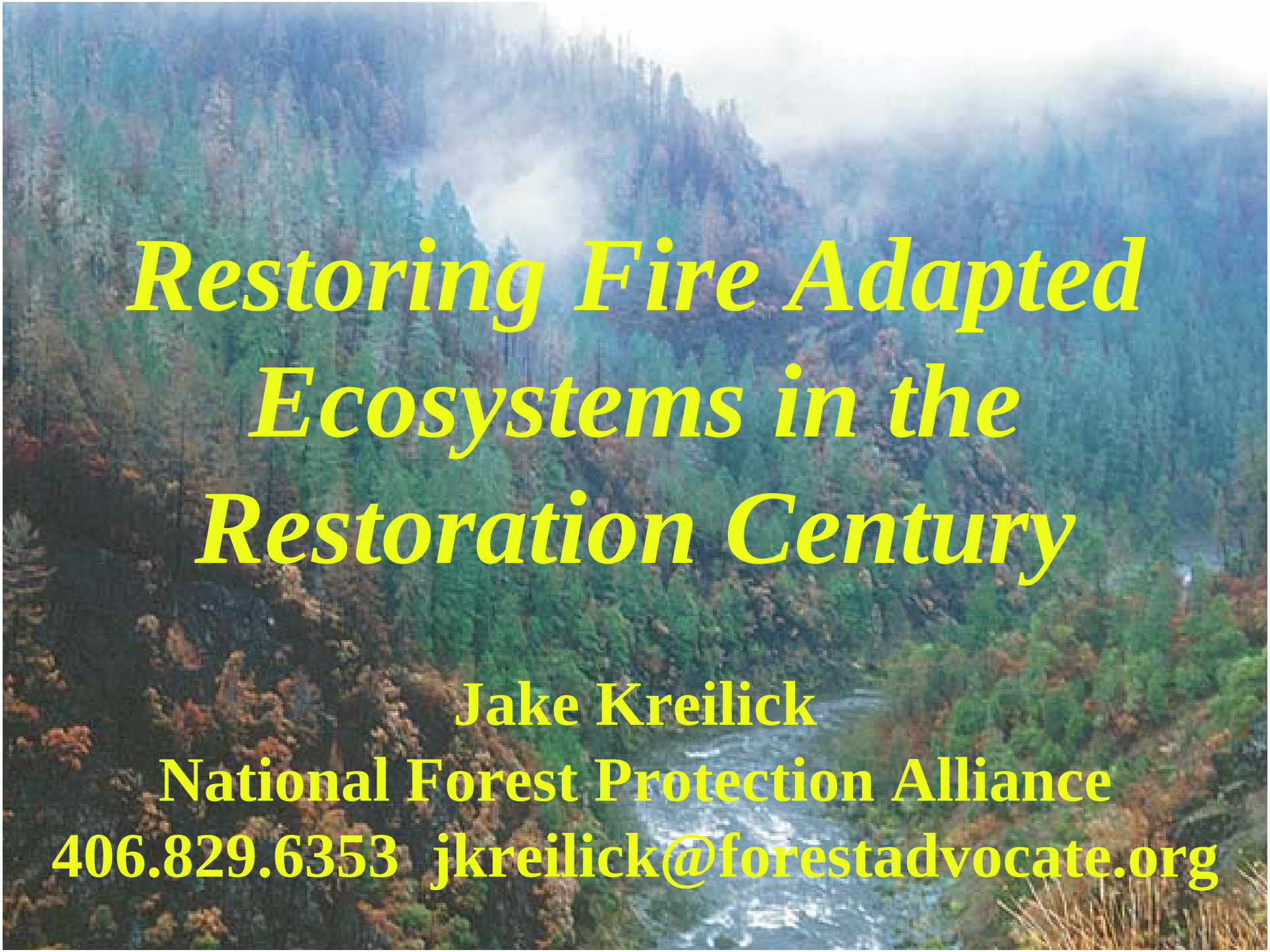

Restoring Fire Adapted Ecosystems in the Restoration Century

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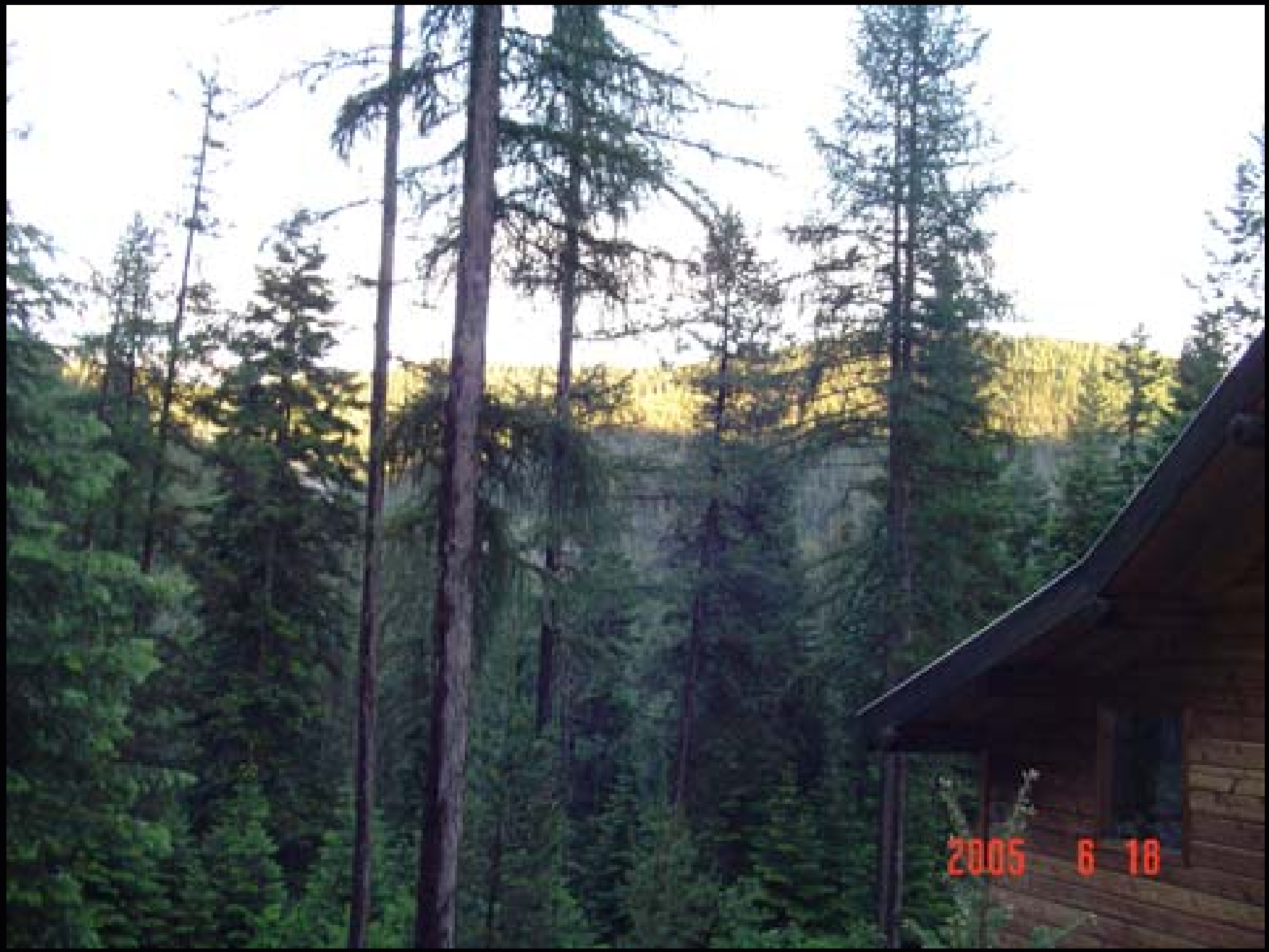
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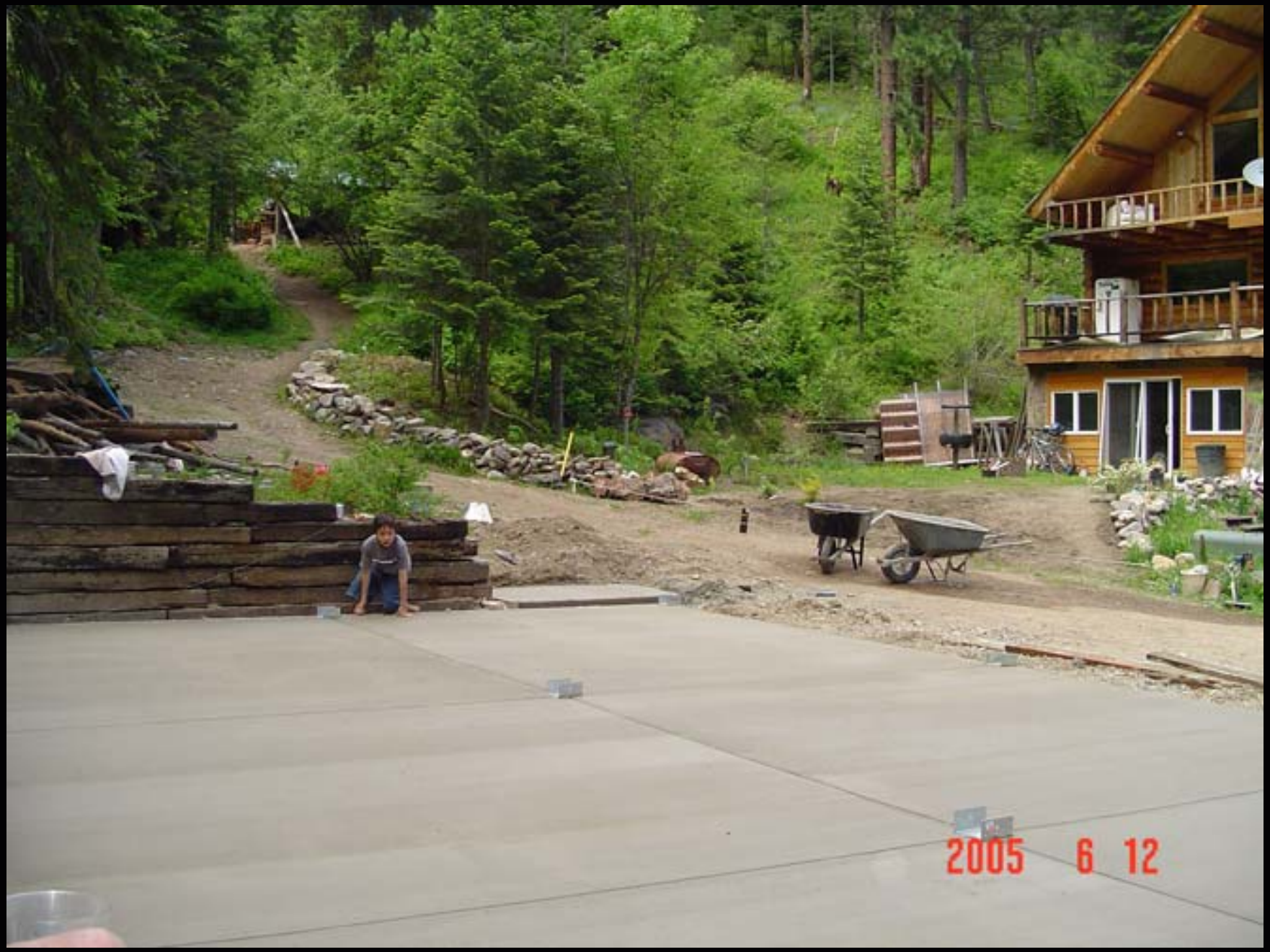
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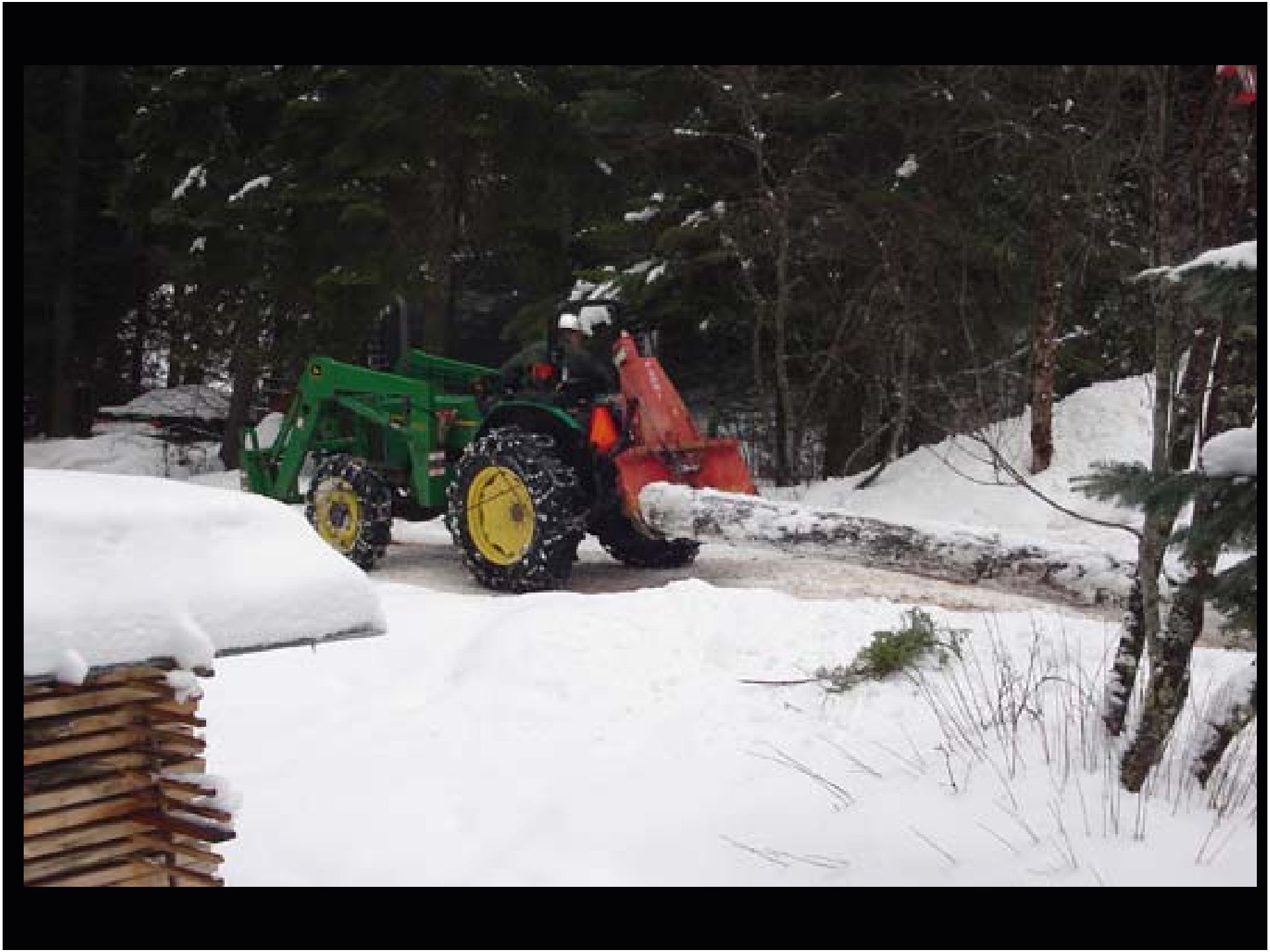

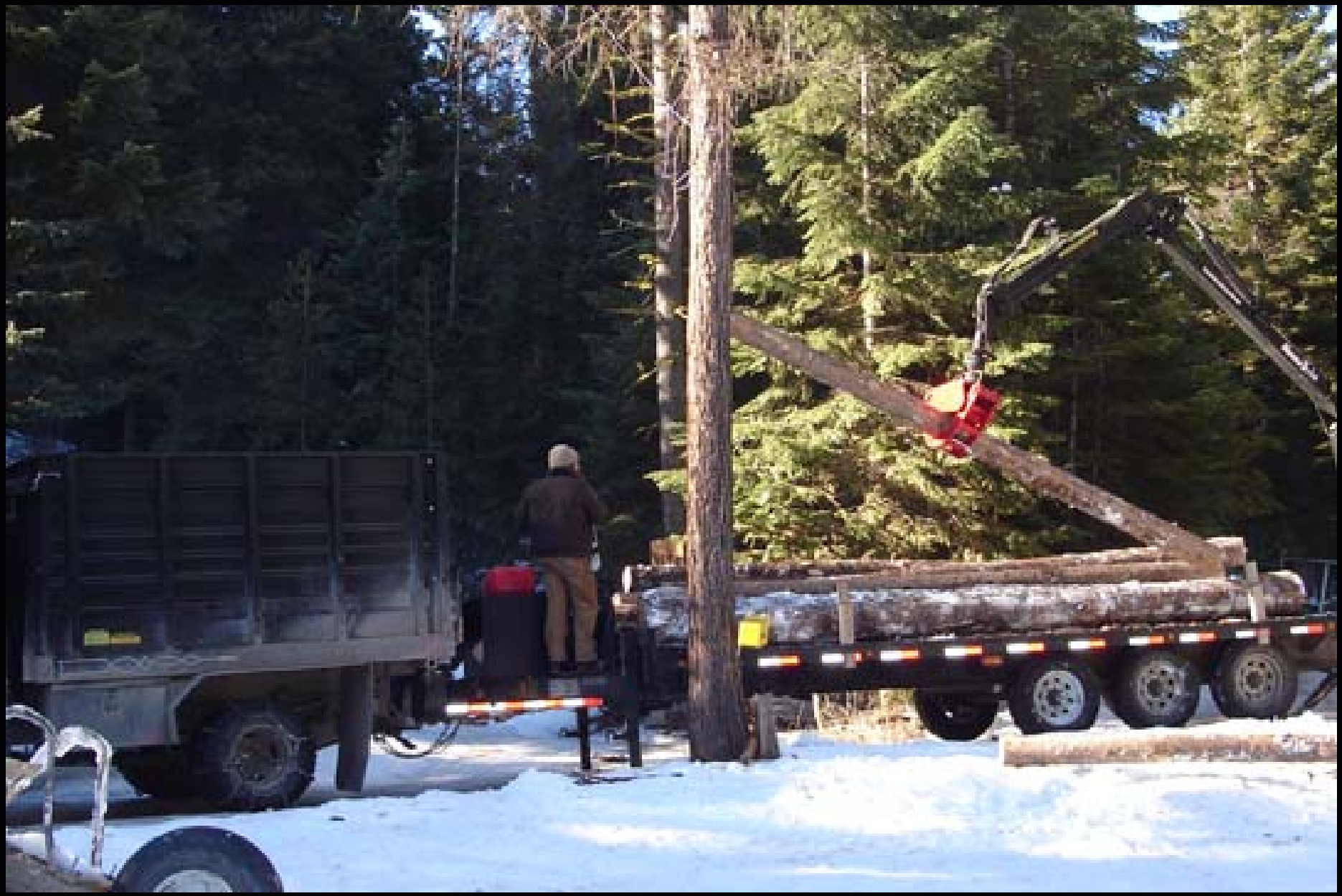


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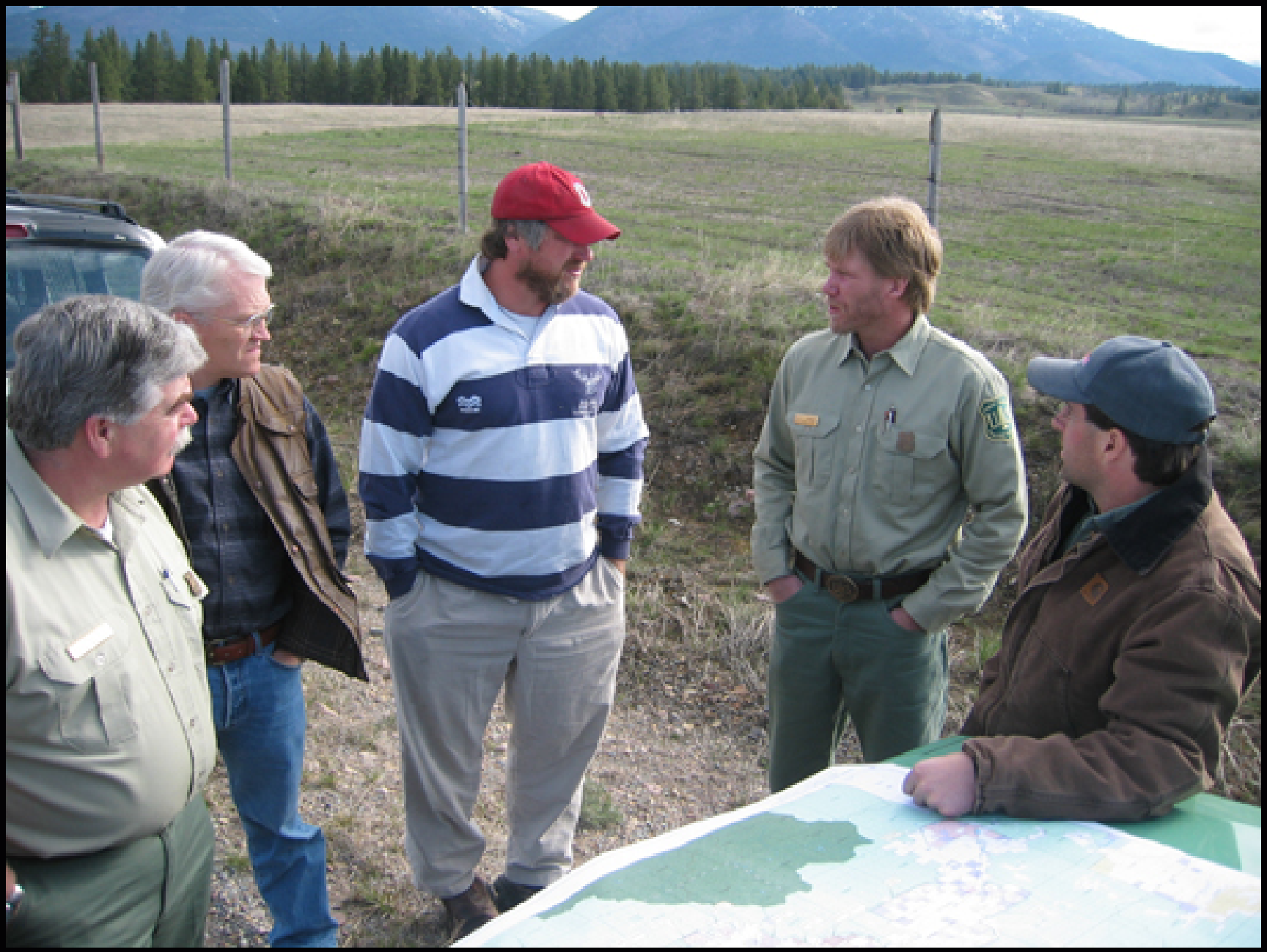
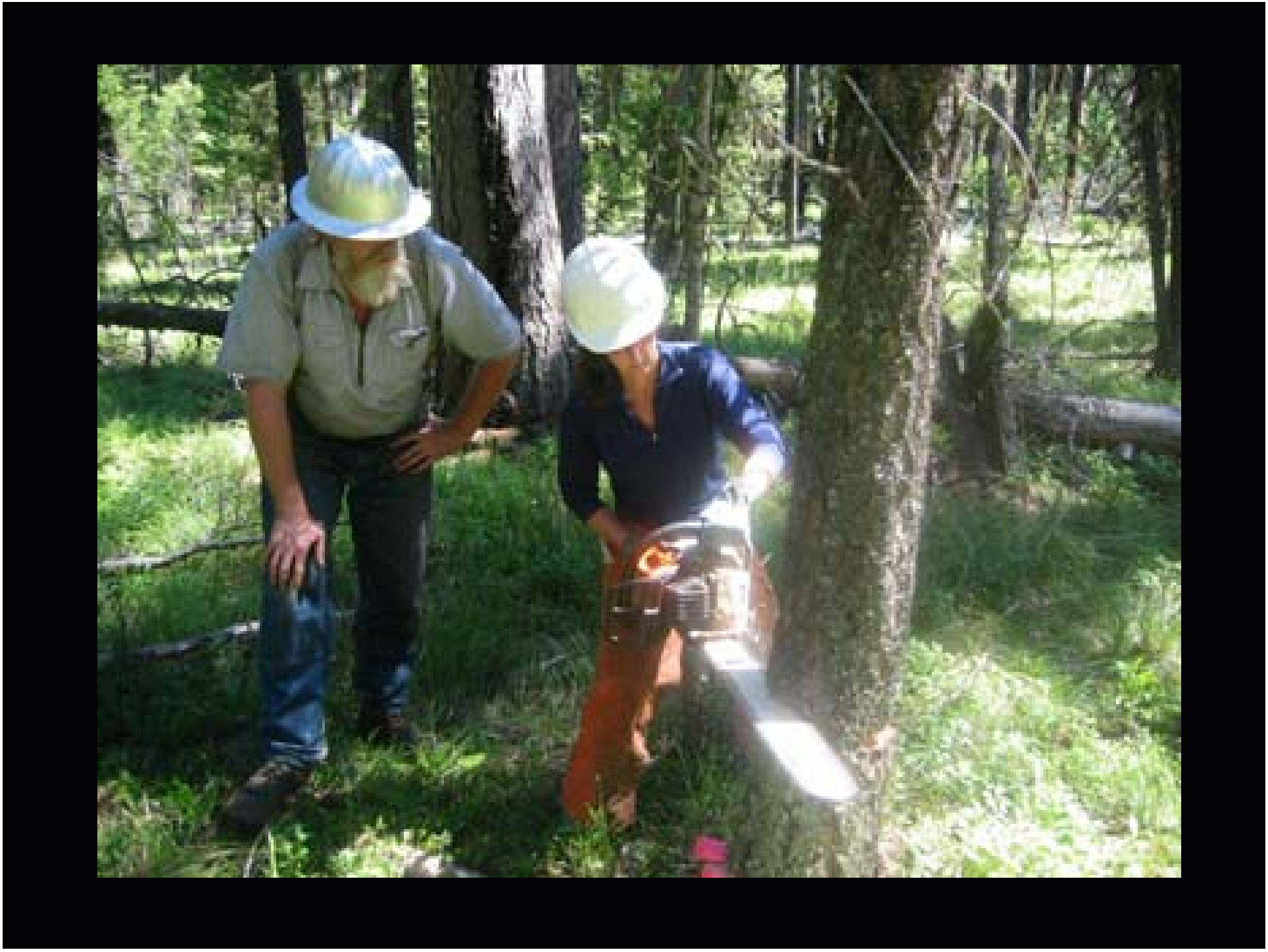
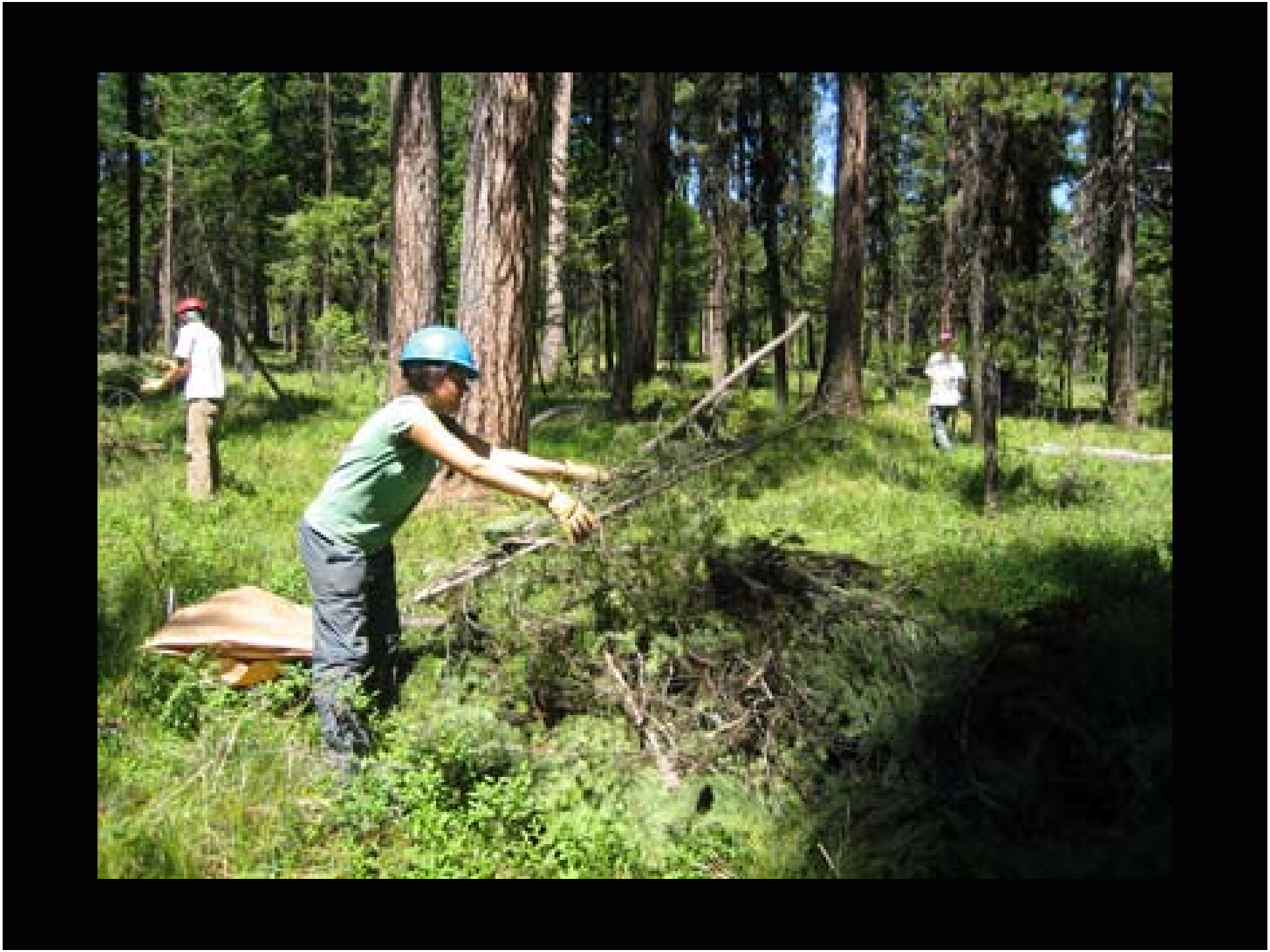
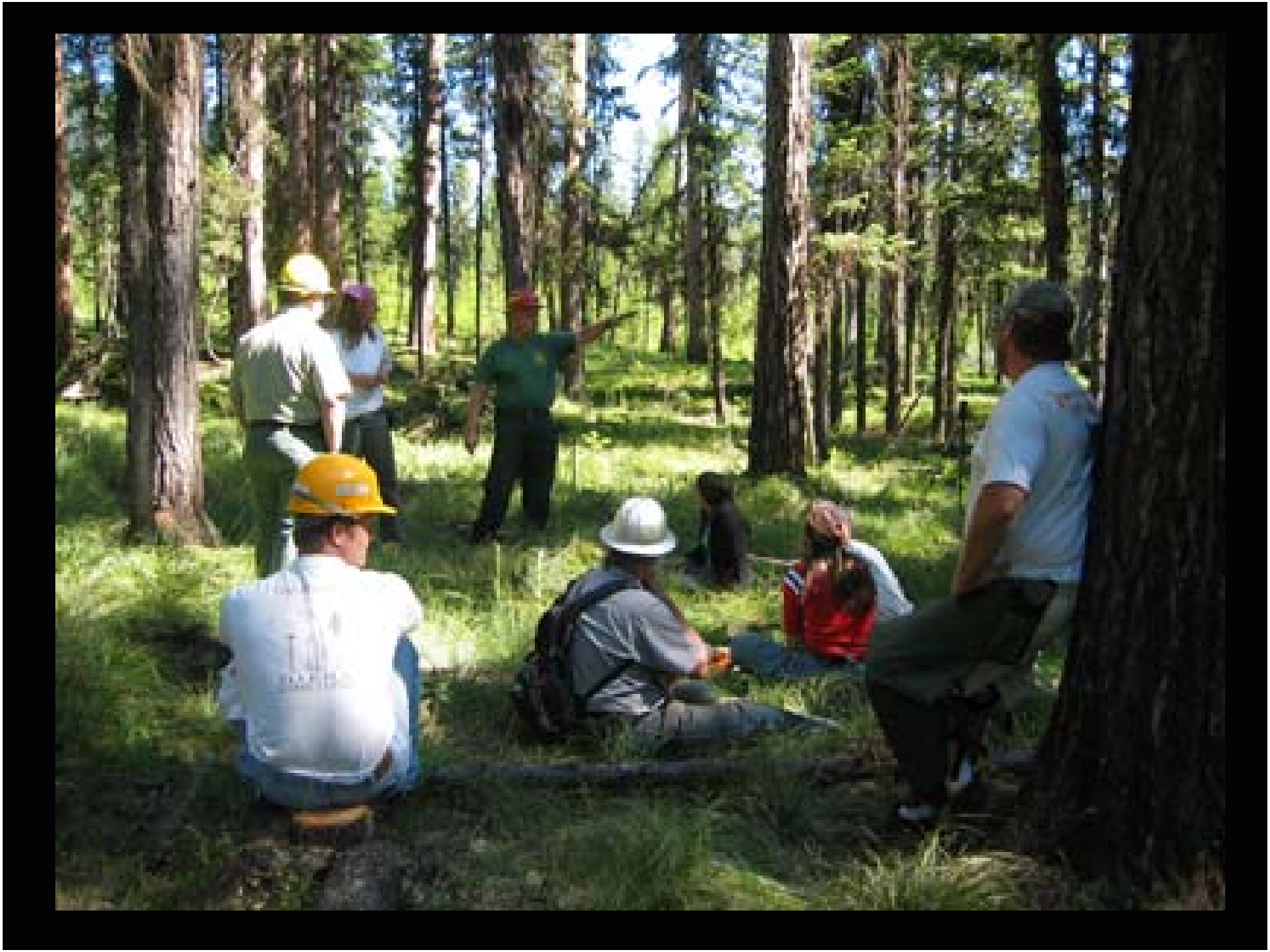








What is a “Healthy Forest Ecosystem?”

- **All natural processes functioning within the bounds of historic disturbance regimes, including the presence of natural disturbances such as fire, insects, disease, wind and floods.**

- **Biodiversity of plant and animal species present in naturally occurring distribution.**

- **A dynamic mix of youth/age, growth/death and an abundance of snag and structural complexity.**


OUR VISION:
The Restoration Century

Citizens' Call for Ecological Forest Restoration: Forest Restoration Principles and Criteria

- The "Restoration Principles" are the result of a 4-year bridge building effort between conservation groups, community forestry advocates and restoration practitioners to develop agreement on a common sense, scientifically-based framework for restoring our nation's forests.

Core Restoration Principles

Ecological Forest Restoration: **The primary goal of restoration is to enhance ecological integrity by restoring natural processes and resiliency. Effective restoration should reestablish fully functioning ecosystems. A restoration approach based on ecological integrity incorporates the advantages of historical models while recognizing that ecosystems are dynamic and change over time.**

Core Restoration Principles

Ecological Economics: **Intact ecosystems provide essential ecological services. Restoration natural systems is an investment in natural capital diminished by decades of logging, road building, mining, grazing, fire suppression, and invasion by exotic species. An economic framework that fully accounts for non-market ecological services should be established to recognize the value of intact ecological systems and to guide restoration efforts.**

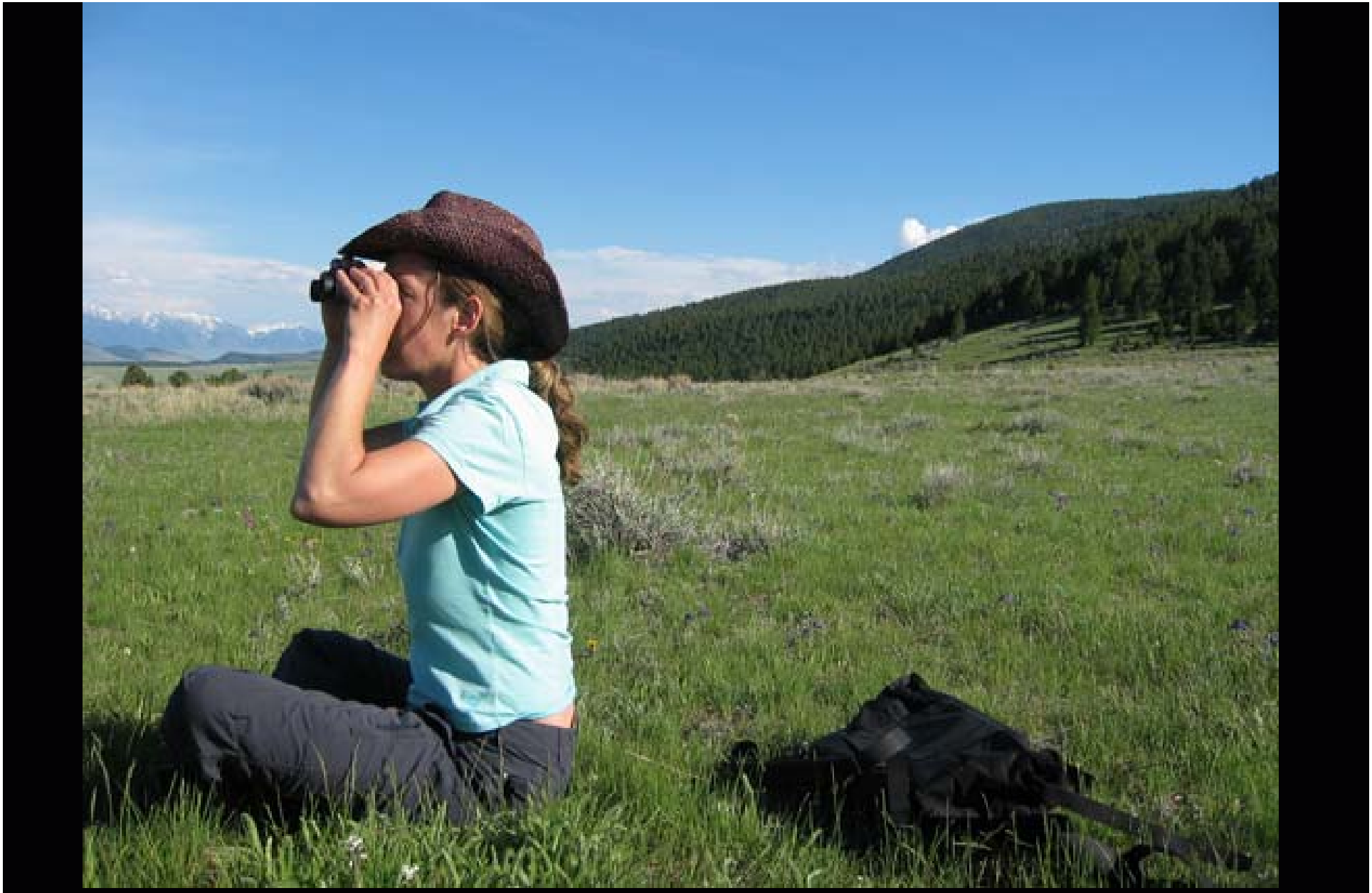
Core Restoration Principles

Communities and Workforce: **Restoration must foster a sustainable human relationship to the land that promotes ecological integrity, social and economic justice for workers and communities, and a culture of preservation and restoration. In turn, effective restoration depends upon strong, healthy and diverse communities and a skilled committed workforce.**

Ecological Restoration Approaches

1) **Protection of areas of high ecological integrity:** Protection is emphasized for relatively intact natural areas and core refugia where restoration is largely unnecessary. Protection of areas of high ecological integrity will provide critical sources of biodiversity, and/or reference landscapes needs as a source of baseline information.

Ancient cedar grove within the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness Area - Lolo National Forest



Roadless wildlands of the Gravely Range
- Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest

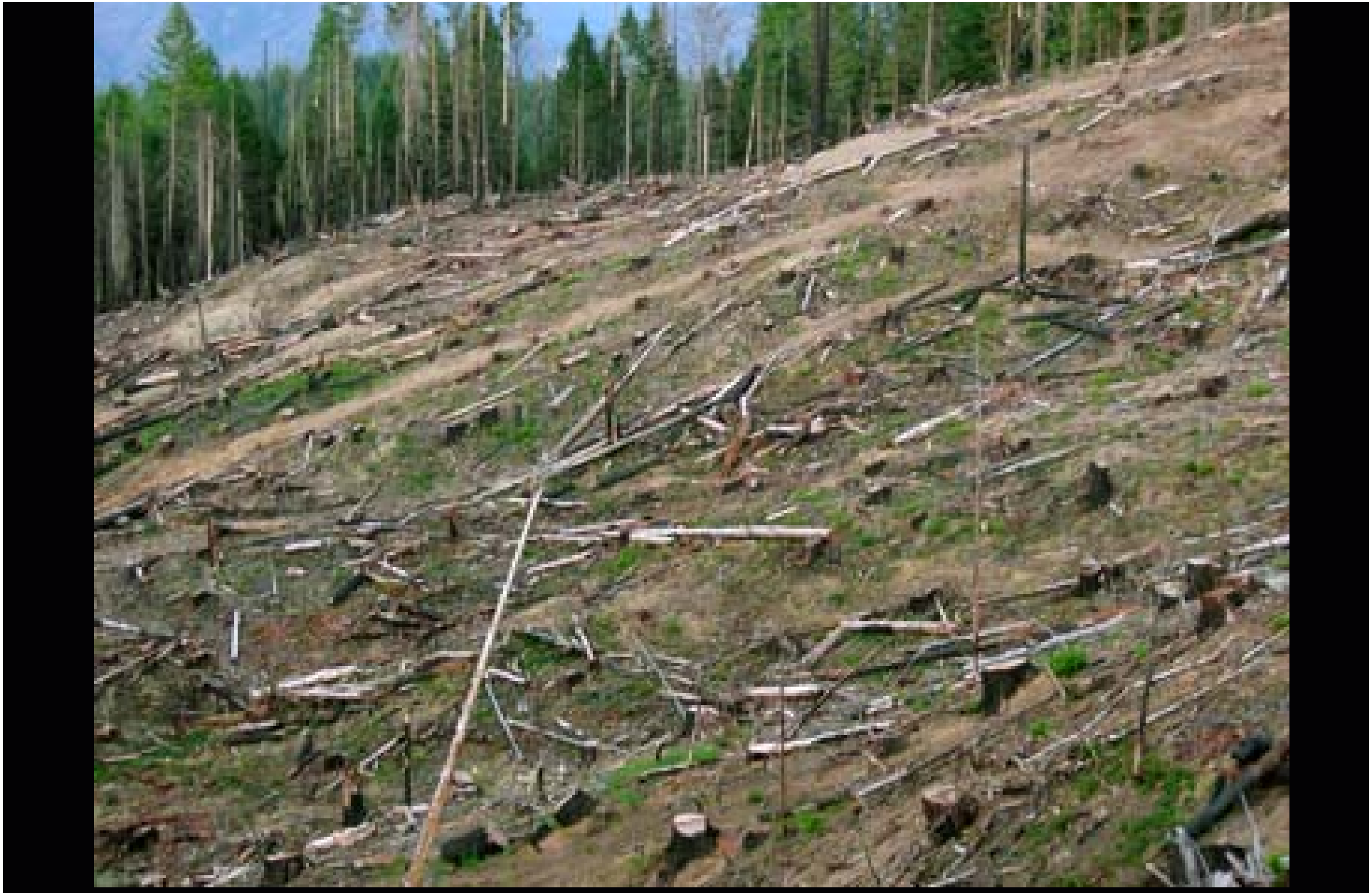
Roadless wildlands of the Rocky Mountain Front
Lewis and Clark National Forest

Petty Mountain Roadless Area - Lolo National Forest

Ecological Restoration Approaches

2) <u>Passive Restoration:</u> Cease activities that have been determined by a restoration assessment to impede natural recovery processes. Passive restoration should take precedent where it's vital to eliminate or reduce the root causes of ecosystem degradation, including stopping destructive logging, roadbuilding, mining, alternation of fire regimes, etc.

Proposed Mineral Fire Salvage - Lolo National Forest
Canceled by the Forest Service in July 2004

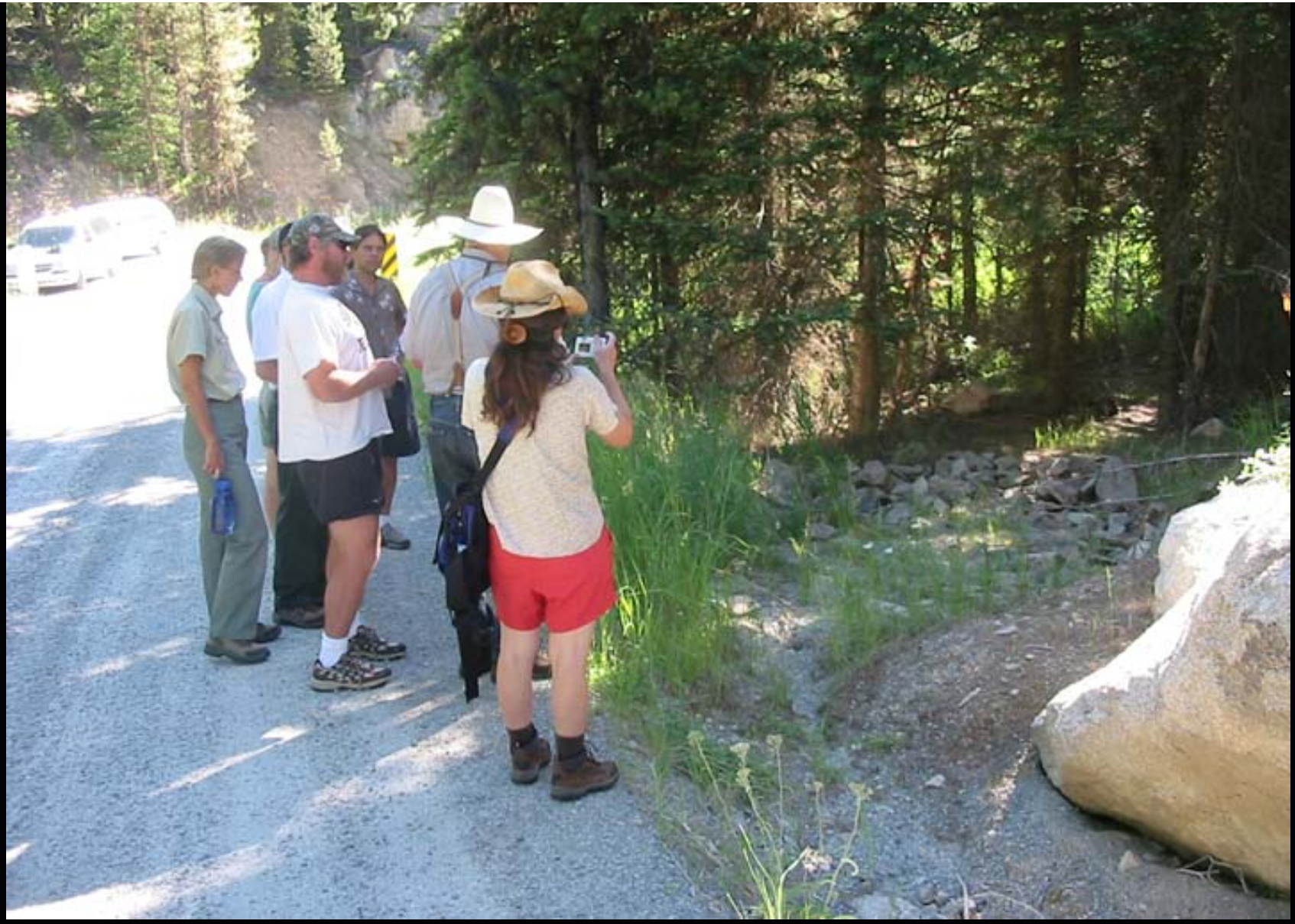


Biscuit Fire Recovery Project - Siskiyou National Forest
Logged Summer, 2005

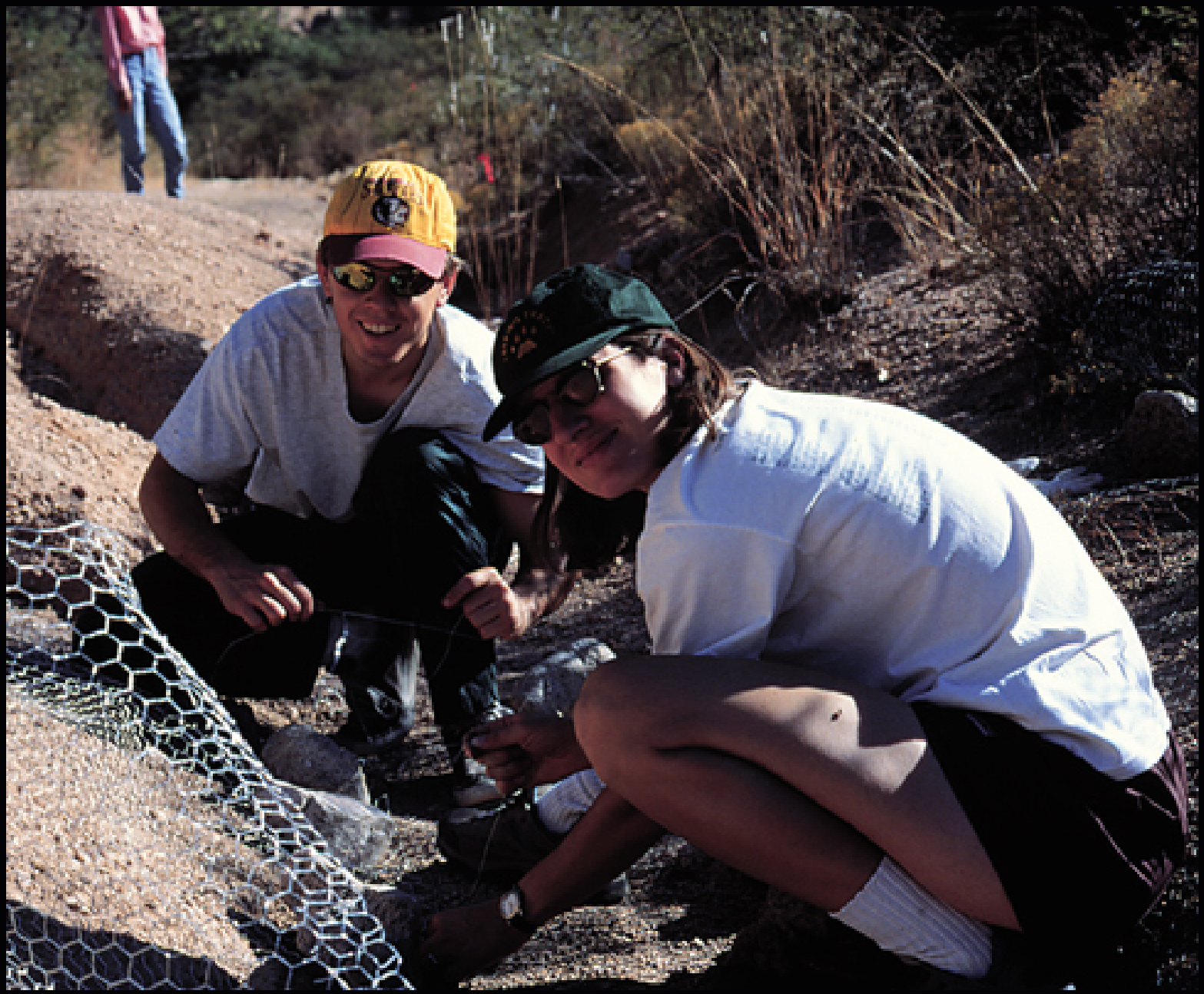
Bitterroot Burned Area Recovery Plan - Bitterroot NF
Logged in 2002

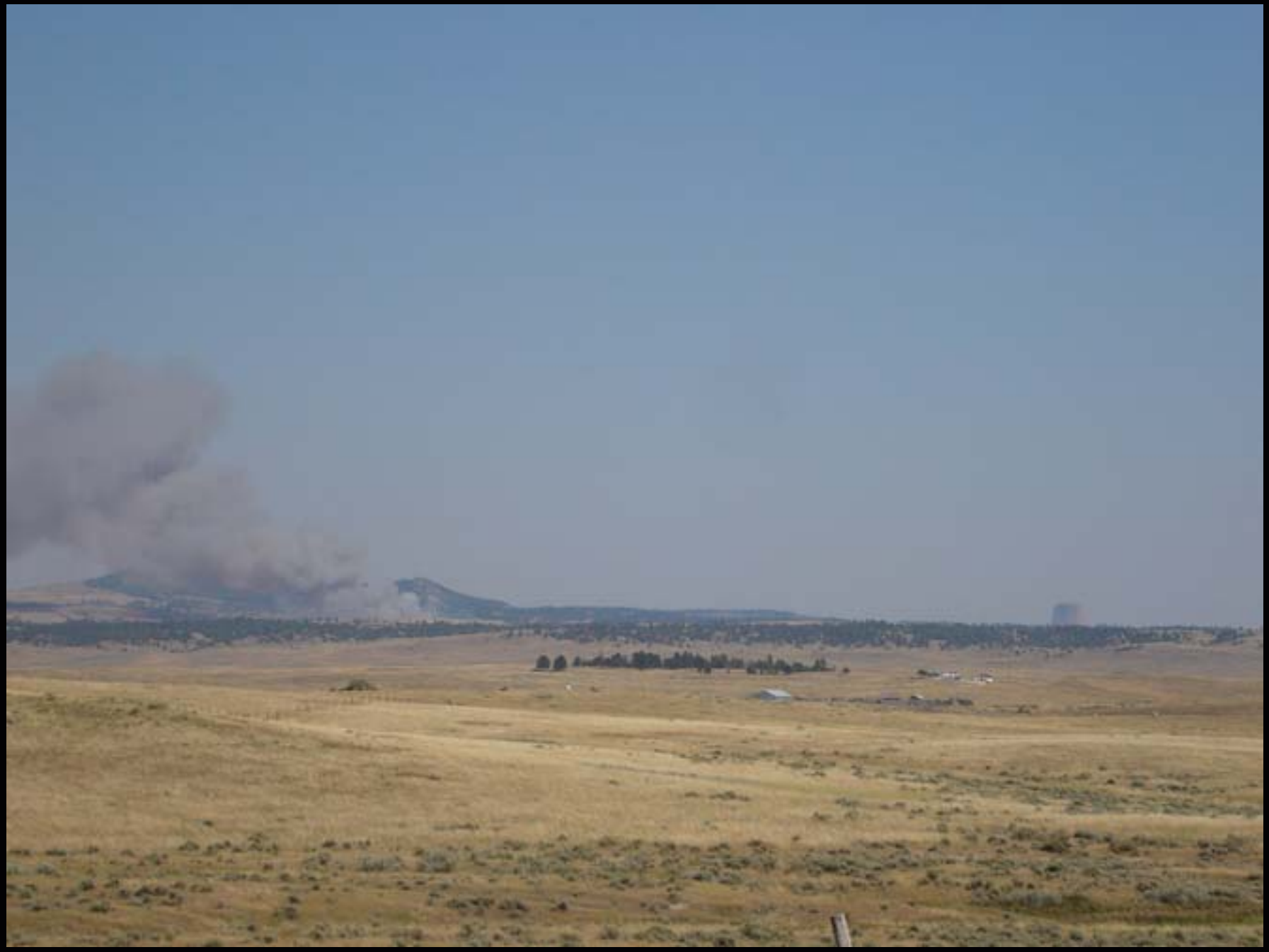
Ecological Restoration Approaches

3) <u>Active Restoration:</u> Direct human intervention to reintroduce or secure natural processes or at-risk species. Active restoration methods include, but are not limited to, removal of barriers to fish passage, invasive species control, road obliteration or maintenance, riparian restoration, prescribed burning and fuel treatment.



Culvert in need of upgrade, Upper Lolo Watershed Restoration Project - Lolo National Forest



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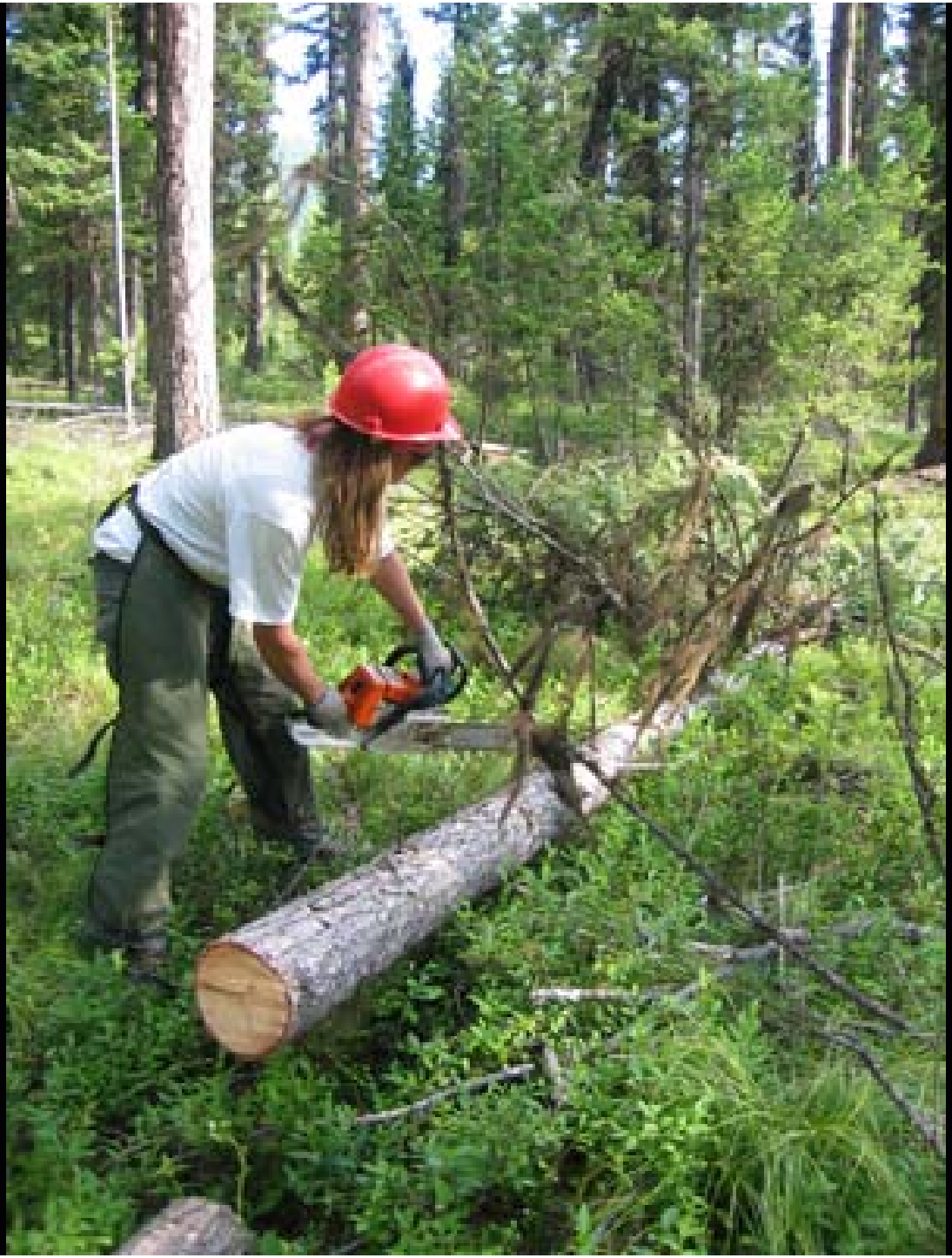
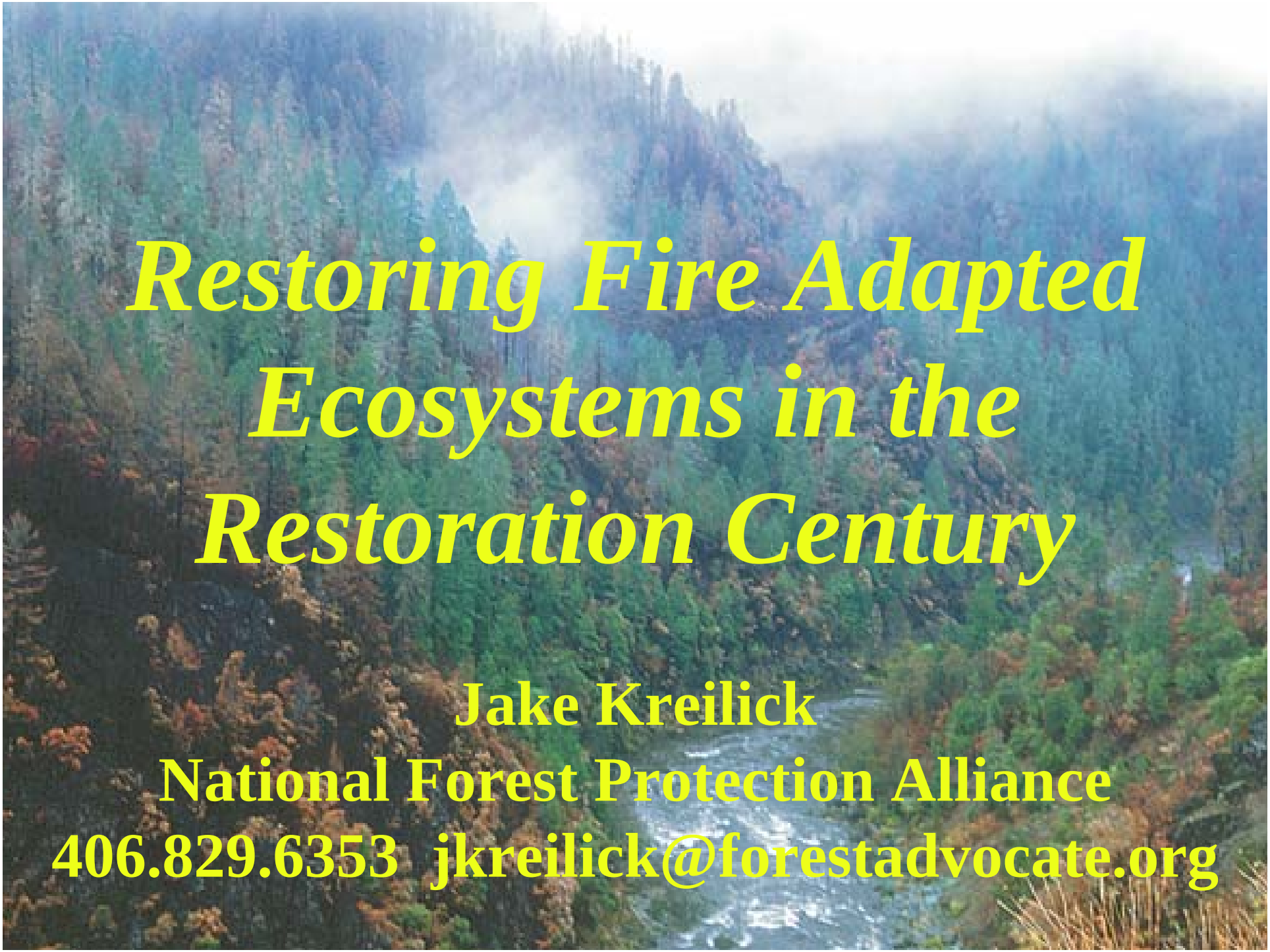
Ecological Restoration Approaches

4) <u>Community Protection Zone:</u> Distinguish between fuels treatments that restore ecological integrity vs. those that serve primarily to protect property and human life. Fuel treatments can be a step towards forest restoration; however, fuel treatments alone don't address the wide range of ecological issues included a comprehensive restoration plan and may degrade soils, native vegetation, wildlife and fish habitat.



Ecological Restoration Approaches

5) <u>Adaptive Management:</u> **Ecological restoration of any type and scale is a process of adaptive management. Due to high levels of complexity, uncertainty and risk, any restoration requires an approach that is careful, flexible and able to respond to change and new information. Monitoring and evaluation must be assured before restoration proceeds, and be incorporated into the cost of the project.**



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